

APPLICANT(S): PLESTED, Joyce S. et al.
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1-47. Canceled.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for eliciting in a host an antibody that recognizes *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising an inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HepII moiety of said inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, wherein said antibody binds to an inner core LPS of *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said immunogenic composition does not comprise an outer core of said *Neisseria* LPS.

50-54. Cancelled.

55. (Currently Amended) A method of immunizing a host against *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising an inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HepII moiety of said inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, whereby an antibody is elicited that binds to an inner core LPS of *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7,

L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a gale mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said immunogenic composition does not comprise an outer core of said *Neisseria* LPS.

57-61. Canceled.

62. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said inner core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12 is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS.

63. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said inner core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12 is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule.

64. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said immunogenic composition comprises said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS conjugated to a protein or peptide.

65. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.

66. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said inner core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12 is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS.

67. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said inner core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12 is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule.

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68. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said immunogenic composition comprises said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS conjugated to a protein or peptide.
69. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.
70. (New) A method for eliciting in a host an antibody that recognizes a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising an inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HepII moiety of said inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, wherein said antibody binds to an inner core LPS of a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.
71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein said immunogenic composition does not comprise an outer core of said *Neisseria* LPS.
72. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein said inner core LPS of said majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS.
73. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein said inner core LPS of said majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule.
74. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein said immunogenic composition comprises said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS conjugated to a protein or peptide.

75. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.
76. (New) A method of immunizing a host against a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising an inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HepII moiety of said inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, whereby an antibody is elicited that binds to an inner core LPS of a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a gale mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.
77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said immunogenic composition does not comprise an outer core of said *Neisseria* LPS.
78. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said inner core LPS of said majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS.
79. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said inner core LPS of said majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule.
80. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said immunogenic composition comprises said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS conjugated to a protein or peptide.
81. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.